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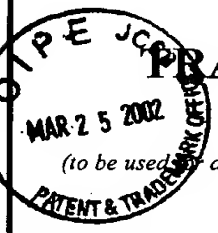
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PTO/SB/21 (6-99)

Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0031

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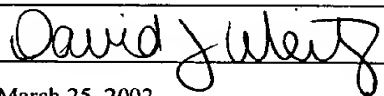
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	<b>Application Number</b>	09/731,686	
	<b>Filing Date</b>	December 5, 2000	
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Casscells	
	<b>Group/Art Unit</b>	3739	
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	R. Kearney	
<b>Total Number of Pages in This Submission</b>	3	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	17616-845


**ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Version with Markings Showing Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">RECEIVED MAR 28 2002 3700 MAIL ROOM</div>
<b>Remarks</b> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2415.		

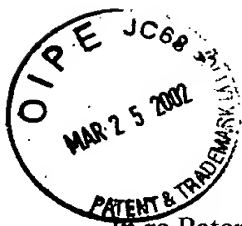
**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT**

<b>Firm or Individual name</b>	David J. Weitz, Reg. No. 38,362, WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI		
<b>Signature</b>			
<b>Date</b>	March 25, 2002	<b>Customer Number:</b>	021971

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated below and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date: March 25, 2002			
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<b>Typed or printed name</b>	Annette Palladino		
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Date</b>	March 25, 2002

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Attorney Docket No. 17616-845

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	PATENT APPLICATION
	)	
Casscells, et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3739
	)	
Application No.: 09/731,686	)	
	)	
Filed: December 5, 2000	)	Examiner: R. Kearney
	)	
Title: Electrocauterizing Tool for Orthopedic	)	
Shave Devices	)	
	)	

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AS TO SPECIES**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to Examiner's Restriction Requirement mailed March 11, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following election and remarks.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement alleging that the application claims 14 distinct species.

Claim 1 was indicated as being generic by the Examiner.

Applicants note that claims 3, 4, 7-10, 13, 20, 24-27, 37, and 38 are also considered to be generic since these claims do not belong to any species identified by the Examiner in the Restriction Requirement. Rather, these claims may be used with more than one of the restricted species.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, Applicants elect Species 1 directed to Figures 1a and 2a as identified by the Examiner in the Restriction Requirement. Claims 18 and 35 are directed to this species.

Claims 11, 12, 14, 15-17, and 28-34 are withdrawn as being directed to the non-elected species pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b). However, Applicants reserve the right pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.141 to pursue claims to the non-elected species in this application in the event that a generic claim is found to be allowable.

Applicants also reserve the right pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected species during the pendency of the present application.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants earnestly believe that they are entitled to a letters patent, and respectfully solicit the Examiner to expedite prosecution of this patent application to issuance. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI

Date: March 25, 2002 By

David J. Weitz

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